

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: INDIANA	
COUNTY: HARRISON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER AUG 28 1973	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: CORYDON / historic District	
AND/OR HISTORIC: INDIANA'S FIRST STATE CAPITAL (or) HISTORIC CORYDON	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: CORYDON			
STATE: INDIANA	CODE: 18	COUNTY: HARRISON	CODE: 061

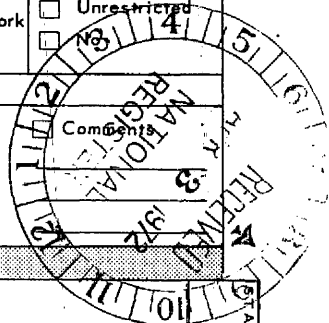
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) X MEMORIAL

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Varied Ownership			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: CORYDON	STATE: INDIANA	CODE: 18	

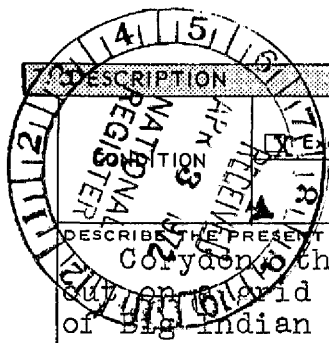
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Harrison County Recorder's Office			
STREET AND NUMBER: Harrison County Courthouse			
CITY OR TOWN: Corydon	STATE: Indiana	CODE: 18	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service			
STREET AND NUMBER: 801 19th Street, N. W., Washington D. C. 20006			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE: 08	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One) Largely

(Check One)

☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Corydon, the county seat of Harrison County, Indiana is laid out on a grid plan on a quarter section of land at the junction of Big Indian and Little Indian Creeks. Beautiful wooded hills surround the town. The business district clusters around the Public Square--many of the buildings in this area date back to the first half of nineteenth century. Some seven or eight buildings of Federal style of architecture remain today that were standing when Corydon was the capital of Indiana from 1813-1825.

On Capitol Avenue, the main north and south street which extends through the entire length of Corydon, is situated the original Harrison County Courthouse. This limestone building was loaned by the county to the State of Indiana and was used by the state as its capitol until its removal to Indianapolis in 1825. Across the street from the Old Capitol is an interesting three-story brick constructed in the 1830's by Dr. John Slemmons. On the southwest corner of Capitol and Chestnut streets is "The Kintner House", an ornate brick hotel constructed in the early 1870's. On North Capitol at Big Indian Creek is "Cedar Glade" a rambling brick residence constructed and inhabited by the Jacob Kintner family who were wealthy Virginians--since 1849 this home has been owned by the McGrain family. Morgan's Confederate Raiders passed north on Capitol Avenue on July 9, 1863 in their raid across southern Indiana.

The main east and west street through Corydon is Walnut. On this street near the center of town is the two story brick headquarters and residence of Governor William Hendricks. In the same block to the east and on a high elevation is the First State Office Building--a one story brick which housed the offices of the auditor and treasurer of Indiana.

At the west end of High Street near Big Indian Creek is a sandstone memorial constructed over the stump of the Constitution Elm. In the yard at this elm is the log Westfall House credited as being the oldest house of Corydon. This home was also the residence of Col. Lewis Jordan who commanded the Home Guards during the Battle of Corydon. The only other log house yet remaining in Corydon is the old Branham home located on the west side of North Capitol between Walnut and High Streets.

On Oak Street, one block west of the Capitol is situated the two story brick residence of Col. Thomas Posey, son of Indiana's last territorial governor. Two-thirds of this building has been torn away; the remaining portion is the main part of the residence and is now a museum maintained by The Hoosier Elm Chapter DAR.

The remaining portions of Corydon contain more modern homes--many built in the latter nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Large shade trees line the narrow streets. Numerous homes of Corydon are furnished with furniture and antiques used in pioneer days.

Corydon is fifteen miles from the Ohio to the south, and a local line connects Corydon with the Southern Railroad seven miles to the north; thus Corydon has been slow to advance industrially. Much of the town remains unchanged except for the impact of several devastating fires.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Capital of Indiana 1813-1825

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☒ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☒ Political☐ Religion/Philosophy☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Humanitarian☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)☒ Historic☐ National☐ State☐ Local☐ County☐ City☐ Town☐ Village☐ Hamlet☐ Unincorporated☐ Other☐ National☐ State☐ Local☐ County☐ City☐ Town☐ Village☐ Hamlet☐ Unincorporated☐ Other☐ National☐ State☐ Local☐ County☐ City☐ Town☐ Village☐ Hamlet☐ Unincorporated☐ Other☐ National☐ State☐ Local☐ County☐ City☐ Town☐ Village☐ Hamlet☐ Unincorporated☐ Other☐ National☐ State☐ Local☐ County☐ City☐ Town☐ Village☐ Hamlet☐ Unincorporated☐ Other

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Town of Corydon was laid out in 1808 by Harvey Heth on ground which had been entered from the U. S. Government by Governor William Henry Harrison. Harrison named the village Corydon for his favorite song. The same year, 1808, Harrison County, the fourth county to be organized in Indiana Territory, was formed and Corydon became the county seat.

Corydon became the Territorial Capital of Indiana, May 1813. From 1813 to 1816, the Territorial Legislature convened in Corydon. In June 1816, forty-three delegates from thirteen counties of the territory convened at the village capital of Corydon to draft Indiana's first constitution--the weather being warm, some of the sessions were held outside under a large elm tree. This tree has since been called "The Constitution Elm".

On December 11, 1816, when Indiana was admitted as a state, Corydon became its first capital. The first sessions of the state legislature and of the supreme court convened at Corydon. The United States courts also met at Corydon during the territorial stage and early statehood. All the first officers of the new state resided in Corydon. The capital remained at Corydon until 1825.

The State of Indiana never owned property in Corydon but borrowed or rented quarters. The little limestone Harrison County Courthouse was occupied as the Capitol. A small brick structure which is in excellent repair today was rented as an office for the state treasurer and auditor. The state's money was kept in strong boxes in the cellar of this building. The quarters occupied by Gov. William Hendricks' family and the room from which he conducted the official state business is also still in an excellent state of repair. The Col. Thomas Posey home is standing--Thomas Posey was the son of the last territorial governor, Thomas Posey. The younger Posey was U. S. Agent for Military Pensions in Indiana and maintained the pension agency in his home for some ten years after the capital was removed from Corydon to Indianapolis.

In 1816 early newspapers of the state were established in Corydon--they were the Indiana Herald and the Indiana Gazette. About this same time a branch of the Bank of Vincennes, the State Bank, was established in Corydon. A state law library was started at Corydon and the State Library had its beginning (see Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical and Historical Souvenir for Clark, Crawford, HARRISON, Floyd, Jefferson, Jennings, Scott, and Washington Counties, Indiana--Illustrated, Compiled and Published by John M. Gresham & Co., Chicago, 1889 (Reproduced by Unigraphic, Inc., Evansville, Ind. 1969)
Illustrated Atlas and History of Harrison County, Indiana
 Published by F. A. Bulleit, Corydon, Ind. 1906
Historic Corydon, General Guide to Points of Interest,
 Published by The Hoosier Elm Chapter DAR, Corydon, 1929
 (see Continuation Sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38° 12' 55"	86° 07' 43"			
NE	38° 12' 56"	86° 07' 09"			
SE	38° 12' 28"	86° 07' 09"			
SW	38° 12' 29"	86° 07' 44"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 40.4 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Frederick Porter Griffin, Past-President

ORGANIZATION: Harrison County Historical Society DATE: April 7, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 116 East Walnut St. -- Box 55 Rev. Dec/ 29, 1972

CITY OR TOWN: Corydon STATE: Indiana CODE: 18

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☒ Local ☐

Name: Joseph D. Cland

Title: Indiana State Liaison Officer

Date: June 4, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/28/73

ATTEST:
for Keeper of The National Register

Date: 8/22/73

NO UTM
CX

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE INDIANA	
COUNTY HARRISON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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	AUG 28 1973

(Number all entries)

(Statement of Significance--continued)
as a small lending library operated from the John T. Jamison Tavern. In 1817, eleven Master Masons representing the nine Lodges in Indiana assembled in Corydon and called a meeting at Madison to organize a Grand Lodge. Dr. David G. Mitchell, a local physician, organized Indiana's first medical society in 1820 at Corydon and he became its first president. Of all the prominent political figures that visited the wilderness capital, the most talked about was that of President James Monroe and General Andrew Jackson's visit to Corydon in June 1819.

In July 1863, Corydon was in the path of Confederate General John H. Morgan's raiders. A battle took place on the south hill overlooking Corydon on July 9, 1863. Corydon was one of the few northern towns to be captured by the Confederates during the Civil War.

In pioneer days, there were numerous wilderness roads leading to Corydon from the Ohio River ferries some fifteen miles away. The main travelled road from Corydon to the northwest was the Governor's Trace which passed by Governor Harrison's Mill on Blue River and joined the Buffalo Trace near French Lick. Many of the early Indiana pioneers who came up from Kentucky passed through Corydon on their way to establish wilderness homes in central Indiana.

9. Major Bibliographic References (cont'd)

- The Corydon Statehouse, A Hoosier Shrine, The Department of Conservation, State of Indiana, Publication #94, 1930
- Long, Eleanor and Newell, Corydon--The Cradle of Our Commonwealth a pageant written for Indiana's Sesquicentennial and presented at the Harrison County Fairgrounds at Corydon, June 1966
- Funk, Arville L., A Sketchbook of Indiana History, Christian Book Press, Rochester, Ind., 1969, pp 25-36, pp 85-89, pp 110-120, pp 148-149, pp 155-160, pp 165-177
- Barnhart, John D. & Riker, Dorothy L., Indiana to 1816, The Colonial Period, Indiana Historical Bureau & Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis 1971, pp 412-463

